1951. File No. S-60

B CLASS

PW. DEPARTMENT

K BRANCH

Subject:— Local Bodies :-
Grievances of the against
Electric supply Companies

B[K] 1951

File No. S-60

K-Br

Etd. Scott. Slip. 24 A.

G.R., G.D., No. 2408, dated 22-6-22.]

Std. Sectt. 78A e.

Correspondence

DOCKET SHEET (B)

Subject :—

File No. S-60

P.W. DEPT.

K BRANCH.

References :— Copies from the original file B(M)

Date.	To whom sent.	Notes and instructions.

D.O. No.7004/33/693-A-Confl.
Local Self Government & Public Health
Department,
Bombay Castle, 28th June 1951.

Sir,

It has been represented to Government that the local bodies have numperous grievances against the present working of the Electric Supply Comp-anies and that it is necessary to make a more satisfactory arrangement for attending to these grievances and for the settlement of disputes which frequently arise between the local bodies and the Companies. It has been decided that tht whole question should be discussed in a conference of the Honourable Minister (Local Self Government), the Honourable Minister (Public Works Department) and the officers concerned, I am directed to request your presence at the conference which will he held on Wednesday the 11th July 1951 at 3-0 P.M. in the chamber of the Honourable Minister (Local Self Government) at the Secretariat.

Yours obediently,

Sd/-

To

Shri G.V. Bedekar, I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Public Works Department.

Pl. state by 8/17 the cases in which we have found that Local Bodies are adopting a wrong attutude. (Y. Mehsana Bulsar, Wadi).

Id/-

Id/-
28-6-51.

P:W.D.
K.

Submitted with refce. to Secy's note at p. 1 ante.

2. Various Files, as readily traceable in con. with disputes between Local Bodies and Electric Supply Companies, are put up below.

3. Mehsana Munny. :- An arbitrator was appointed by Govt. in June 1950 to settle the dispute between the Co. and the Muny. reg. rates for supply of energy for street lighting. One of the conditions appointing arbitrator was that each party should deposit a sum of Rs. 180. The Muny. is evading the payment of the deposit under one pretext or other and refusing payment of bills as demanded by the Co. The Co. was therefore forced to disconnect the supply for the street lighting after giving due notice. Intimation has since been recd. that the dispute has now been settled amicable.

4. Bulsar Muny.:- Complaint was received from Bulsar Muny. reg. increase in rates by the Co. The attention of the Muny. has been drawn to the Press Note, dated the 10-12-1949, wherein the Co. was requested not to raise their rates beyond those pr-evailing on the 30th Sept.1949.

5. Wai Muny. :- The Wai Muny. was given low rates by the Co. by a contract, which was entered into long before the World War II. Due to all round increase, the Wai Co. wanted to raise their rates. The Municipality is however not agreeable to revisions of rates. The matter is to be settled by the arbitrators appointed by the Muny. and the Co.

6. Yeola Muny.:- The Yeola Co. is charging a rate of Rs. 1-11-0 for street lamps in consideration of the Muny. exempting the Co. from taxes and Octroi duty. It seems that the Muny. wanted to recover taxes from the Co. and the Co. by way of retaliation demanded a rate of

Rs.....

Rs. 3-0-0 against Re. 1-11-0 per street light. The case is gone for arbitration.

7. Chopda Muny.:- The contract of 7 years between the Muny. and the Co. having expired in 1946, the Co. offered to supply the energy on fresh terms, which the Muny. declined. Thereafter it seems that the Muny. itself asked the Co. to determine the supply to which the Co. readily agreed to. One of the reasons the Co. is not in a position to give back the supply to the Muny. is that it cannot accommodate the present load of the Muny.as the Co. has already utilised the load of Muny. for giving supply to other consumers. The Muny. is intending to install its own generating set.

8. Lonavla Muny.:- At the request of the Lonavla Muny. Govt. had nominated the El. Engr. to Govt. to act as an arbitrator in the dispute between the Muny. and the Co. The Muny. was however not satisfied with the "award" given by the arbitrator and wanted to take legal steps. The Co. therefore wished Govt. to settle the affair. The Co. was informed in July 1950 that Govt. could not interfere in the matter. As no further communication has been recd. from the Co. it may be presumed that the matter has been settled amicably.

9. Matheran Muny. :- The Muny. offered part payment of electricity Bills to the Co. due to not getting continuous supply to street lights. The Co. therefore approached Govt. for arbitration and Govt. accordingly issued orders appointing arbitrator. The Muny. however challenged the validity of order appointing arbitrator by Govt. Legal opinion was obtained by Govt. from the R.L.A., who stated that Govt. could appoint an arbitrator. The matter has since been amicably settled by both the parties without arbitration.

10. Karad Muny.:- The Co. had purchased a new generating set to supplement production of electric energy and accordingly felt the need of constructing a shed, latrine, etc. for the use of its addly.

addl. employees. The Dist. Magistrate considered the construction of the latrine, shed, etc. was of urgent nature. The Muny. however, objected on the ostensible reason that the construction was within the limits of the town planning but the real reason, it seems, was the dis-pute between the Muny. and the Co. in con. with rates. The Consulting Surveyor to Govt. has since reported that, according to enquiries made by his Asstt., it is learnt that the Muny. has given the necy. permission on the 19-3-1951 for construction of latrine, etc.

11. A copy of the El. Engr's note in the matter is kept below for the information of Secy.

Id/-
7-7-51.

Id/-
7-7-51.

Attended the conference from 3 to 4 p.m. today.

Concrete Steps to be taken by P.W.D.:

i) Copies of True Programme of Elec. Inspector to be sent to Chief Officers of Mun. having street lights agreements with Mun.

ii) Advice should be freely given to the Collector by Elec. Inspector or officers when the Collector interferes in a dispute between the Supply Co. and Mun.

iii) In case of arbitration of a dispute between a Supply. Co. and the Mun. we may, in future, nominate a Arbitrator any suitable non-official or retired officer, and may discontinue the practice of nominatory. The Elec. Engineer..

L.S.G. & P.H.D. will put up minutes from meeting and draft orders which may be awaited.

Id/-
24-7-51.

LOCAL BODIES.

Grievances of the -- against Electric Supply Companies.

Government of Bombay,
Local Self Government & Public Health Department,
Resolution No. 7004/33,
Bombay Castle, 4th October 1951.

RESOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT.

It was represented to Government that the local bodies have certain grievances against the present working of the Electric Supply Companies; and that the existing machinery for the settlement of disputes between the local bodies and the Companies is not altogether satisfactory. Government has carefully considered the general nature of these grievances; and is pleased to direct that the following steps should be taken in this connection :-

(i) The Electric Inspector should send his tour programmes well in advance to the Chief Executive Officers of the local bodies concerned. The Chief Executive Officers should meet the Electric Inspector and communicate to him any specific complaints which their local bodies may have against the Electric Supply Companies.

(ii) Whenever a disput arises between a local body and the Electric Supply Company the local body concerned should approach the Collector of the District with a view to arriving at an amicable settlement. When so approached by a local body, the Collector should make every effort to bring the two parties to a settlement. The Electric Inspector should give every possible help to the Collector in this matter.

(iii) The Public Works Department be requested to take steps for appointment as arbitrator of suitable gentleman of status with the necessary experience and background; instesd of appointing the Electric Inspector; in the disputes between the local bodies and the Electric Supply Companies,

By order ....

By order of the Governor of Bombay,

Sd/- B.J. Naik,

Under Secretary to Government.

To

All Directors of Local Authorities,

All Collectors (with spare copies for supply to local bodies in their districts),

The Electrical Engineer to Government,

The Public Works Department.

The Revenue Department,

The Director, Local Self Government Institute, (by letter).

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24-8